

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. An evaluation or diagnostic kit comprising a plurality of applicators containing different test substances, each applicator comprising:

a tube;

a plug inside the tube; and

at least one test substance contained in an inside space of the tube defined at a first end by the plug, the plug being arranged, in use, to be expelled together with the test substance when said test substance leaves the inside space of the tube.

2. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the test substances comprise different allergens.

3. The kit according to Claim 2, wherein the allergens are selected from the group consisting of allergens originating from acarids, animal hairs and scales, mold, hymenoptera venoms, foodstuffs, metals, rubber, any compound that can be found in substances designed to be applied on the body or the hair.

4. The kit according to Claim 1, further comprising a housing including compartments in which the applicators are housed.

5. The kit according to Claim 4, wherein the housing includes at least one compartment configured to receive a single applicator.

6. The kit according to Claim 4, wherein the housing includes at least one compartment configured to receive a plurality of applicators.

7. The kit according to Claim 1, further comprising at least one bag for packaging at least one applicator.

8. The kit according to Claim 7, further comprising a string of bags each containing at least one applicator.

9. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein each applicator includes at least one mark corresponding to at least one of a type of test substance inside the tube and a concentration of a compound contained in the test substance.

10. The kit according to Claim 9, wherein the mark comprises at least one of an alphanumeric symbol and a color.

11. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the test substance in the tube has a volume in a range from 0.01 ml to 5 ml.

12. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein test substance in the tube has a volume in a range from 0.05 ml to 1 ml.

13. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the inside space is defined at a second end, remote from the first, by a breakable portion.

14. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the inside space is defined at a second end, remote from the first, by a removable portion.

15. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the inside space is defined at a second end, remote from the first, by a perforatable portion.

16. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the inside space is defined at a second end, remote from the first, by a deformable portion.

17. The kit according to Claim 13, wherein the applicator includes a retaining element for retaining the breakable portion on the applicator after it has been broken off.

18. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the tube is provided at one end with an applicator element, the applicator element being separated from the test substance prior to use, by the plug.

19. The kit according to Claim 18, wherein the applicator element is selected from the group consisting of a cotton bud, a foam bud, a felt tip, a flocked bud, and a tip made of ceramic or of sintered material.

20. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the tube is free of an applicator element.

21. The kit according to Claim 20, wherein the tube includes an end configured so as to be able to scarify the skin.

22. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the plug comprises a liquid, and wherein said liquid is selected from the group consisting of mineral oils, fluorine-containing substances, and silicones.

23. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the plug comprises a powder, and wherein said powder is selected from the group consisting of powders of microspheres of copolymers, of Nylon®, of waxes, of silicas, and of silicones.

24. The kit according to Claim 1, wherein the plug comprises one of a liquid and a powder.

25. The kit according to Claim 3, wherein said allergen comprises nickel.

26. A diagnostic method for diagnosing an allergy, the method comprising the steps of:

deposing a substance containing an allergen on the skin or a mucous membrane of an individual, the substance being deposited with an applicator comprising a tube, a plug inside the tube, the substance being contained in an inside space of the tube defined at a first end by the plug, the plug being arranged, in use, to be expelled together with the substance when said substance leaves the inside space of the tube; and

deducing, from any possible cutaneous reaction of the individual, information concerning the sensitivity of the individual to the allergen under consideration.

27. An evaluation method for evaluating a treatment substance, the method comprising the steps of:

- performing the steps of the method according to Claim 26;
- applying the treatment substance;
- repeating the steps of the method according to Claim 26; and
- evaluating an effectiveness of the treatment substance.

28. The method of Claim 27, wherein the repeating step is performed after a number of applications.

29. The method of Claim 27, wherein the repeating step is performed after a determined period of time has passed,

30. An evaluation or diagnostic kit comprising a plurality of applicators containing test substances with at least one compound at different concentrations, each applicator comprising:

- a tube;
- a plug inside the tube; and
- at least one test substance in an inside space of the tube defined at a first end by the plug, the plug being arranged, in use, to be expelled together with the test substance when said test substance leaves the inside space of the tube.

31. The kit according to Claim 30, comprising at least two test substances with at least one compound at concentrations varying by a factor of at least two from one applicator to another.

32. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein at least one substance comprises a stimulating agent for stimulating a peripheral nervous system.

33. The kit according to Claim 32, wherein the stimulating agent for stimulating the peripheral nervous system is selected from the group consisting of natural or synthetic capsaicinoids, homocapsaicin, homodihydrocapsaicin, nordihydrocapsaicin, dihydrocapsaicin; lactic acid, glycolic acid, ethanol at a concentration greater than 50%, mustard seed oil.

34. The kit according to Claim 33, wherein said stimulating agent comprises capsaicin.

35. The kit according to Claim 32, wherein a concentration of the stimulating agent for stimulating the peripheral nervous system lies in a range from 10-6% to 10-2% by weight.

36. The kit according to Claim 30, further comprising a housing including compartments in which the applicators are housed.

37. The kit according to Claim 36, wherein the housing includes at least one compartment configured to receive a single applicator.

38. The kit according to Claim 36, wherein the housing includes at least one compartment configured to receive a plurality of applicators.

39. The kit according to Claim 30, further comprising at least one bag for packaging at least one applicator.

40. The kit according to Claim 39, further comprising a string of bags each containing at least one applicator.

41. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein each applicator includes at least one mark corresponding to at least one type of test substance inside the tube and a concentration of the compound in the test substance.

42. The kit according to Claim 41, wherein the mark comprises at least one of an alphanumeric symbol and a color.

43. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the test substance in the tube has a volume in a range from 0.01 ml to 5 ml.

44. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the test substance in the tube has a volume in a range from 0.05 ml to 1 ml.

45. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the inside space is defined at a second end, remote from the first, by a breakable portion.

46. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the inside space is defined at a second end, remote from the first, by a removable portion.

47. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the inside space is defined at a second end, remote from the first, by a perforatable portion.

48. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the inside space is defined at a second end, remote from the first, by a deformable portion.

49. The kit according to Claim 45, wherein each applicator includes a retaining element for retaining the breakable portion on the applicator after it has been broken off.

50. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the tube is provided at one end with an applicator element, the applicator element being separated from the test substance prior to use, by the plug.

51. The kit according to Claim 50, wherein the applicator element is selected from the group consisting of a cotton bud, a foam bud, a felt tip, a flocked bud, and a tip made of ceramic or of sintered material.

52. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the tube is free of an applicator element.

53. The kit according to Claim 52, wherein the tube includes an end configured so as to be able to scarify the skin.

54. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the plug comprises a liquid, and wherein said liquid is selected from the group consisting of mineral oils, fluorine-containing substances, and silicones.

55. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein the plug comprises a powder, and wherein said powder is selected from the group consisting of powders of microspheres of copolymers, of Nylon®, of waxes, of silicas, and of silicones.

56. The kit according to Claim 30, wherein said plug comprises one of a liquid and a powder.

57. An evaluation method for evaluating a level of cutaneous neurosensitivity of an individual, the method comprising the steps of:

1) applying, on a cutaneous zone of the individual, a substance containing a physiologically acceptable vehicle and a stimulating agent for stimulating the peripheral nervous system, the substance being applied using an applicator comprising a tube, a plug inside the tube, the substance being contained in an inside space of the tube defined at a first end by the plug, the plug being arranged, in use, to be expelled together with the substance when said substance leaves the inside space of the tube;

2) gathering information representative of a detection, by the individual, of a dysesthetic sensation;

3) if the individual does not detect any such sensation, repeating steps 1) and 2) with a substance containing a higher concentration of a same agent until the individual detects a dysesthetic sensation, or until a substance at a maximum concentration of said agent is applied; and

4) deducing, from a last concentration applied, information regarding the level of cutaneous neurosensitivity of the individual.

58. An evaluation method for evaluating a treatment substance, the method comprising the steps of:

performing the steps of the method according to Claim 57;

applying the treatment substance;

repeating the steps of the method according to Claim 57; and

evaluating an effectiveness of the treatment substance.

59. The method of Claim 58, wherein the repeating step is performed after a number of applications

60. The method of Claim 58, wherein the repeating step is performed after a determined period of time has passed,

61. A system for evaluating a level of cutaneous neurosensitivity, comprising:
a packaging; and
a plurality of containers provided in said packaging, each container comprising:
a first end which is open,
a second end which is closed in a first position,
a removable plug provided inside said container in said first position, said removable plug defining a closed volume between said plug and said second end in said first position, and
a stimulating agent in said volume in said first position,
wherein said second end is movable to a second position which is open, said stimulating agent being in communication with an outside of said container via said first open end in said second position; and
wherein at least two of said containers have different concentrations of said stimulating agent.

62. The system of Claim 61, wherein a first container comprises a first stimulating agent and a second container comprises a second stimulating agent different from said first stimulating agent.

63. The system of Claim 61, wherein said plug is outside of said container in said second position.

64. The system of Claim 61, wherein said plug is expelled with said allergen in said second position.

65. The system of Claim 61, wherein said containers are tubes.

66. The system of Claim 61, wherein each container is coupled to an applicator, said applicator covering said first end.

67. The system of Claim 66, wherein said applicator comprises a porous material.
68. The system of Claim 61, wherein said first end has a chamfered shape.
69. The system of Claim 61, wherein said packaging is a box.
70. The system of Claim 61, wherein said packaging comprises a plurality of bags, each of said containers being provided in one of said bags.
71. A system for evaluating a sensitivity, comprising:
a packaging; and
a plurality of tubes provided in said packaging, each tube comprising:
a first end which is open,
a second end which is closed in a first position,
a substance in said volume in said first position,
wherein said second end is movable to a second position which is open, said substance being in communication with an outside of said container via said first open end in said second position, and
wherein said second end is attached to said tube in said second position.
72. The system of Claim 71, wherein said substance is an allergen.
73. The system of Claim 71, wherein said substance is a stimulating agent.
74. The system of Claim 71, wherein each of said tube further comprises a removable plug provided inside said tube in said first position, said removable plug defining a closed volume between said plug and said second end in said first position.
75. The system of Claim 71, wherein each of said tube further comprises a thermoreversible thickener inside said volume.
76. The system of Claim 71, wherein said packaging comprises a box.

77. The system of Claim 71, wherein said packaging comprises a plurality of bags, each of said tubes being in one of said bags.

78. The system of Claim 71, wherein said packaging comprises:
a stand; and
a body mounted on said stand.

79. The system of Claim 78, wherein each of said tubes has a portion extending outside said body, and wherein said packaging further comprises a closure cap coupled to said body and over said portions.